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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **American Inns of Court to Honor Ninth Circuit Judge Consuelo M. Callahan**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Circuit Judge Consuelo “Connie” M. Callahan of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has been selected the 2014 recipient of the prestigious Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award from the American Inns of Court.

Judge Callahan will receive the award on July 14, 2014, during the opening session of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Monterey, California. Several hundred judges and attorneys working in the federal courts of the western states will be on hand for the presentation, which will be made by Dean Deanell R. Tacha of the Pepperdine University School of Law, a retired judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit and current president of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

The American Inns of Court award is presented to “a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.”

A prominent member of the legal community in California’s Central Valley for nearly 40 years, Judge Callahan has devoted her entire career to public service. She has served as a role model for women and minorities in the legal profession and been a mentor to many students and new attorneys.

Nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate, Judge Callahan was appointed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2003. She presently serves on the court’s Executive Committee and Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders and is involved in various judicial education and outreach activities in the U.S. and overseas, including a recent teaching assignment in Albania.

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Prior to coming onto the federal bench, Judge Callahan had been an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third District, from 1996 to 2003; a judge of the San Joaquin County Superior Court from 1992 to 1996; and a commissioner of the Stockton Municipal Court from 1986 to 1992. Earlier in her career, she worked in the Office of the District Attorney for San Joaquin County from 1976 to 1986 and as a deputy city attorney for the City of Stockton from 1975 to 1976.

Judge Callahan received her A.B. from Stanford University in 1972, her J.D. from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in 1975, and her LL.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2004. An ardent supporter of her alma mater, Judge Callahan has served on the UOP Board of Regents since 2004 and chairs the board's Academic Affairs/Student Life Committee. She is a past president of the McGeorge School of Law Alumni Association.

Of Hispanic descent, Judge Callahan was inducted into the Mexican-American Hall of Fame in Sacramento in 1999. She is the first woman and first Hispanic to be appointed to the San Joaquin County Superior Court, and the first San Joaquin County judge to serve on the California Court of Appeal in 73 years. She is also the first San Joaquin County judge to be appointed to the federal court.

The American Inns of Court, a national organization with 340 inns and more than 100,000 active and alumni members, is dedicated to excellence, civility, professionalism, and ethics in the practice of law. An inn is an amalgam of judges, lawyers, and in some cases, law professors and law students. Candidates for the Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award are nominated through circuit-wide open nominations and selected by a panel of representatives from both the circuit and the American Inns of Court Foundation.

The 2014 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference will be held pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for “the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit.”

The Ninth Circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the 15 district and bankruptcy courts and their related court units in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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